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VALLEY GAY PRESS

GLBT INFORMATION SINCE 1998

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 1 JANUARY 2008

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

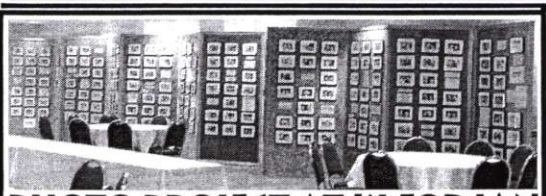


PHOTO PROJECT AT KI FOR JAN

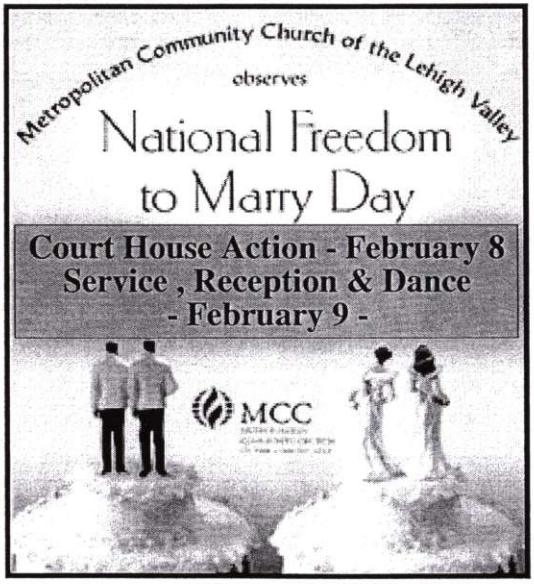
1st Mainstream Religious Congregation Display of Photo Projec. Keneseth Israel, a member synagogue of the Union for Reform Judaism at 2227 W. Chew St., Allentown, exhibits the PDN Photo Project-200 Same-Sex Couples: Facing Inequality all of January. Rabbi Robert Lennick will reflect on the photo project and civil rights in his sermon on Friday Jan. 18 - during Martin Luther King weekend. A Shabbot pot luck dinner that evening, will be open to the community. Service begins at 6pm, dinner begins at 7pm. To participate in the dinner, call to RSVP and discuss what you will bring for the potluck -610-435-9074. There will also be a Martin Luther King Interfaith Service with a diversity fair, open to the public on Sunday, Jan. 20 beginning at 2pm.

The Photo Project now features 212 pictures of local same-sex couples. Read about it at www.padiversity.org.

I LOVE LUCY...TO DEATH!!!

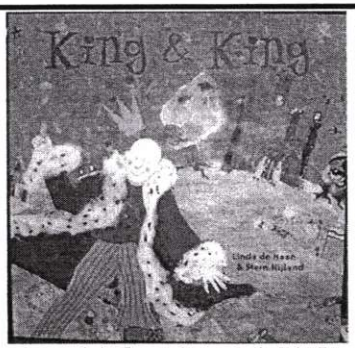
Mystery Dinner Theatre at Diamonz by White Rose Productions to benefit PA Diversity Network . Saturday, January 12, Doors open at 6:30pm. Full buffet will be served -- $42 per person, Call Diamonz for tickets now, 610-865-1028 See Diamonz own Vinnie as Rickie Ricardo....Fred Mertz in Drag?

MCC PLANS FREEDOM TO MARRY COURT HOUSE ACTION & CEREMONY



DANCE & RECEPTION FEB. 8 & 9

Same-Sex Couples are needed for Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley's 2008 National Freedom to Marry Day Observance. Please consider participating in these history-making events to advocate for marriage equality! Consider taking a day off from work to be a part of seeking equality and justice for all. Friday, February 8, 11 a.m. Marriage License applications at the Lehigh County Courthouse, 5th & Hamilton, in Allentown. Licenses will not be valid but will create a historical record of the discrimination we face. For full information call MCC at 610-709-8800 or see www.mcclv.org



DIVERSITY IN THE LIBRARY

Read all about a local library standing up to anti-gay pressure to remove the children's book King & King from their collection and PDN's and the community's positive response to this attempted censorship.

Read about it on pages 2 and 12.

PPL TO OFFER DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.

Dear WTA- What's the deal about King &King? **signed Library User.**

Dear L. U. Here's the latest: In late November the mainstream press reported that Lower Macungie Library had refused to remove the children's book King & King from its shelves.

According to the Morning Call, parents Eileen and Jeff Issa asked the Lower Macungie Library to take King and King out of the children's corner, but the library denied the request despite a petition signed by about 40 residents who agree with the Issas. The Issa's asked the Lower Macungie Board of Supervisors to force the library to remove the book, but the board denied to micro manage the library by a 2 to 1 vote.

The Morning Call article indicated Eileen Issa borrowed the 30 page book along with nine others for her two-year-old son, without reading it. When she did read it to her son, she was shocked that it was a story about two princes falling in love and getting married. (See a review of the book on the back page.)

PA Diversity Network responded to this situation by thanking the Lower Macungie Library with a $50 donation. We also donated copies of King & King to the main libraries of Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and Reading. We took the Lehigh Valley copies directly to the libraries and presented them to the library directors. All the directors took the books graciously. We mailed the Reading one.. The Morning Call learned of PDN's action and reported that the efforts to ban the book had actually caused it to be more available in more libraries.

Several people contacted us at PDN because they wanted to donate a copy of King and King to their local library. So PDN has arranged a way for community members to donate copies to their libraries by making a donation of $23 to PDN. With that donation we'll buy the boo, and arrange for the donation to the library the donor chooses. We'll also affix a book plate that has web site and contact information for families in need of GLBT support. The book plate can also include the name of the donor who made the donation possible, if the donor wishes. You can read more about how to do this at the PDN web site at www.padiversity.org - library project - King & King. There you can see a current list of libraries that has the book.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH JANUARY EVENTS

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley observes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day on Sunday, January 20 at the morning and evening worship services. All are welcome.

MCCLV's First Worship Services in New Building-- MCCLVs first worship services in its new building will be held Sunday, January 6, 2008. MCCLV will make its new home at the Silkwerks building at 930 N. 4th Street in Allentown. To help with moving the church, please call 610-709-8800 or e-mail info@mcclv.org

MCCLV Bible Study Starts January, 2008, Starting the first Sunday of January, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will host an Adult Bible Study every Sunday from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. For 2008 and 2009, the Bible Study will be a biographical study of the Bible. The Study will be led by MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy. For more information, contact Rev. Goudy at 610-709-8800 or e-mailing rev.goudy@mcclv.org. All are welcome.

BROADWAY CARES/ EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner

For several years now I've been hearing about the good work that Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS has been doing. I wanted to get involved so I made an appointment and I showed up at Equity headquarters and made my way to the Equity Fights AIDS and Dancers Responding to AIDS office. The office was a beehive of activity. I could hear a lot of phones ringing and saw industrious people working on some kind of project. Large posters from past fundraising events, covered the walls.

I was offered a cup of coffee and then escorted into the office of the volunteer coordinator. After a very friendly talk, he gave me the contact info of the finance associate organizing the collection drive. I called the number and was assigned to help out two shows in one night. There is a gap of time between the two shows. The timing of the 25th Annual Putnam Counting Spelling Bee and The Phantom of the Opera allows a person to help out at the first one and then scoot down the street to help out again at the other. So the night I was to help out I got home from work and took a little nap. I put on my suit and took the number one train down to the Circle in the Square theater. The ushers and lobby staff were so completely cool, I listened to the last ten minutes of the play (very good by the way, come see it if you get the chance. It's closing so hurry!) At the curtain call the cast announced they were raising money to fight AIDS and are kindly accepting donations in the lobby. The audience passed through the lobby and I think I collected $40 in donations in my silver bucket. Somebody in the cast, I think his name was Aaron, stood next to me in the lobby in his boy scout costume and introduced himself and he had a silver bucket too. It was just so cool, I can't tell you. I turned in my bucket and walked briskly through the theater district to the Majestic Theater.

Each theater has some autonomy as to how they fundraise so Phantom was a little different. The lobby bartenders were clearing away their bottles from the bar and when that was done the house staff and the volunteers set out Phantom calendars, Phantom red ribbons, and two versions of Phantom posters. At the end of the curtain call there was the announcement that we were collecting for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. There were various items for sale in the lobby and for $400 an audience member could get his or her picture taken back stage with the Phantom. I sold a bunch of stuff that night.

Because of the stagehand strike it worked out that I could only help out one more time, but for my volunteering efforts I earned a ticket to a show called Gypsy of the Year. I never heard of this show before, but on December 17 I left work early to get to the New Amsterdam theatre to see what this was about.

I got a great seat. the opening number included all living members of the original cast of West Side Story. They got a standing ovation. And Chita Rivera is an inspiration. God, I hope I can dance like her when I'm her age. Eh...Who am I kidding? I can't even dance like her now. Anywho this Gypsy of the Year show has been going on for 19 years. The casts of Broadway and off-Broadway shows are encouraged to write a song, prepare a skit, or make up a new dance number and then they compete against each other for the title of Gypsy of the Year. I watched the casts of Avenue Q, Wicked, Curtains, Rent, A Chorus Line and The Ritz just to name some of them perform new dance routines and sing new songs. It was really cool, I felt so "in." Collecting is over for the season but I will be back with my silver bucket in the spring.

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HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page atwww.uuclvpa. org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The winter schedule is now in effect.

Game Night: the 4th Monday of the month, at 6:30pm at Conway's BBQ Restaurant in Kuhnsville. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball**: every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown. **GLOSS has an email newsletter** that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

GLOSS BOWLING

Gloss Bowling - GLOSS bowling meets on the second Friday of the month in the winter. If enough interest exists, GLOSS will also meet to bowl during the summer months. Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Ira at: iramfine@aol.com, home phone: 610-767-7363 cell phone: 610-462-4786 . Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

Dave Moyer Won FACT'S 2007 Life Time Achievement Award

FACT SNOWBALL REPORT

Report from FACT on the Snowball 2007: The Snowball was attended by approximately 150, even though the weather was not all that cooperative. Everyone had a great time, the food was good, the music was good, all in all it was a good time. Festivities got started around 5:30pm for Cocktails and socializing, light piano music was provided by the incomparable "Stevie Z". In the Grand Ballroom around 6:15pm, the Silent Auction items were on display for viewing and bidding. There were 90 items on display all donated by board members, local businesses and friends of FACT.

Carl Mancino President of FACT welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their past and current support of FACT. Carl presented several awards: Rainbow Award went to Steve Ziminsky. Presidents Award went to Allan Smith, Lehigh Valley Hospital AIDS Activities Office. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to David K Moyer, Allentown Health Bureau. Joseph Mannino, Lehigh Valley AIDSWALK Chairperson, distributed grants to Daybreak, AIDS Service Center, Latino's for Healthy Communities - New Directions. and the Lehigh Valley Hospital AIDS Activities Office. David K Moyer led the Invocation that was written by Rev. Fr. Patrick Malloy - Grace Episcopal Church.

Carl Mancino presented the FACT 2008 Board Members:

Carl Mancino President
Brian Marks Vice President
Bryon Reynolds Treasurer
Robert Burton Secretary
Christopher Criswell, Daniel Friedman, Lou James, Joseph Mannino, David K Moyer, Skip Scheetz, Allen Smith and Christian Smith.

Entertainment was provided by TJ & C and they were absolutely FABULOUS.

GRANT FOR RAINBOW FLAGS

Community Activist Charles Versaggi has provided a small grant to PA Diversity Network to finance the distribution of rainbow flags to fly in front of homes in the Center City area of Allentown. If you live in this area and would like to fly the rainbow colors in front of your home, contact PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 or info@padiversity.org for more information.

HONOR ROE V. WADE

On January 22 at 7pm, community members will gather to honor the 35th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade at Miller Forum in Moyer Hall, Muhlenberg College, 2400 West Chew Street, Allentown. Award-winning filmmakers Barbara Attie & Janet Goldwater will host a viewing of their film "Motherless," a documentary which explores the tragedy of death from illegal abortions. Sponsored by the Muhlenberg GSA, Allentown Women's Center, the Duvall Project-ACLU of Pennsylvania, and Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania, the event will launch a pro-choice film competition. Free and open to the public. Please contact duvall@aclupa.orgwith questions.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears meet at the Mooselounge upstairs at the Stonewall 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at around 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moose head. This is a social group. Bears and bear admirers and anyone else who wants to be part of the gathering, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears haveayahoo group site:http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears.

EARN AN AA DEGREE

Earn an Accelerated Associate Degree in Leadership: 2 nights a week; stay in your community and receive expert instruction from Harcum College in partnership with I-LEAD. Advance your career; empower yourself with life enriching skills; lead your community to a better future. Call Miriam Lavandier at CASA Community Center (610) 435-9902 Ext 107. Accepting applications now for September '08.

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, please email GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. New people are always welcome!

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

Berks Gay Men's Social Group - Join BGMSG for a variety of social activities for gay men in Berks and surrounding areas. For information or to sign up email:BGMSG@comcast.net. Visit the web site for a complete list of upcoming activities. www. berksgmsg.com.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum,Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

STATE COLLEGE GETS CIVIL RIGHTS LAW

State College, PA has passed an anti-discrimination ordinance which includes sexual orientation and gender identity. There are now 14 PA municipalities which have both "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression" as protected classes in their ordinances.

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

PDN List of Upcoming Events.

January - 12, 2008 - I Love Lucy to Death Dinner Theatre at Diamonz to benefit
January - 2008 all month -The PDN Photo Project will be on display at Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown. Special Sermon - Jan 18th.
February 8 - 9, 2008 -- PDN will participate in Freedom to Marry Court House action and ceremony.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville- 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.
Meeting Dates: Allentown PFLAG schedule for 2008: no meeting in Jan., Feb. 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, (picnic date not yet set) Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 Dec. 4,
Reading PFLAG schedule for 2008: Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 18, April 15, May 20, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group has formed at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor.
1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

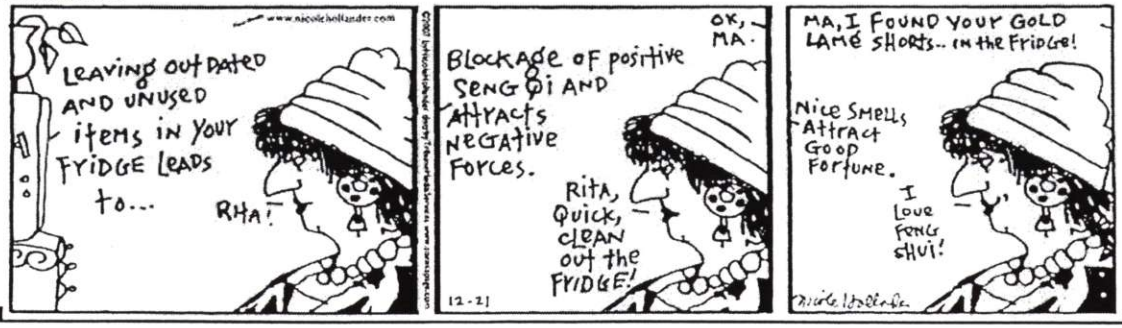
REPORT FROM BERKS LGBTQ GROUP LEADER HEATHER ALMQUIST:

Our LGBTQ group has grown in leaps and bounds... we now have nearly 10 members after just a couple of months. I'm proud to say that our group is comprised of a variety of people from within the community: lesbians, gay men, bi women, transgender men and women, and those questioning their orientation. Ages range from mid-20's through mid-40's, and the exchange of support in such a diverse group is really wonderful to behold.

I want to especially thank PDN/VGP for helping to get the word out about our free support group. Invariably at each group, members spend some time discussing the dearth of resources for the community here in Berks county and how happy they are to have found a group in their area. We also frequently sing the praises of PDN and the invaluable role you play in disseminating information and the personal support you so freely offer. I just wanted to pass those words of appreciation along to you.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicole hollander.com.



SEE PHOTOS & INFO ON RECENT BERKS & LEHIGH VALLEY GLBT EVENTS AT WWW.PADIVERISITY.ORG

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

By Sue Sneeringer

THE REAL PRICE OF ART

Not long ago, Marilyn and I watched THE TRAIN on Turner Classic Movies. It's a film I've always wanted to see because it was directed by a favorite, John Frankenheimer, and deals with an attempt by Hitler to collect, hoard and/or destroy some of the world's most famous paintings in the final days of World War II. Burt Lancaster stars, heading up the French resistance team that saves the art. Many lives are lost in that process.

The film clearly asks the question that I, myself, have as well. What price art? At Theatre Outlet and Reading Community Players and everywhere else I've ever made theatre, it has always been a labor of love. I seldom, if ever, got paid through the years to do it even though I'm skilled enough that I should make a living at it. But those opportunities are few and far between and I live in a society that doesn't value art for its own sake. Grow up. It's show BUSINESS, they say. Fine enough. Recognizing that it was never easy to make a living as an artist, in this or any era, the times are still revealing on this topic. One of the first actions in the neo-cons' war on government was the vilification of the arts and artists. Back at the beginning of the Reagan years, remember?

The National Endowment for the Arts battles for public funding and the use of the Mapplethorpe photos and Serrano's "Piss Christ" (a simply brilliant and prophetic piece of work) as the raw meat to lead a pack of Congressional mad dogs. One of the ways you solidify a political movement is to remove any opposition to it so, of course, they had to start there. Artists carry on, with or without NEA grants, thank goodness, and I make my art with or without a paycheck. So, I guess my answer to "what price art" is I can't really put a price on it. And, actually, I won't. I know if there was a fire that I would grab Johnny or Charlotte before the Cassatt (if we were lucky enough to have one!) but I'm also pretty sure I'd run in after that painting once the kids were free and clear of danger.

Those who know me well will attest to my lifelong struggle to make peace with my Catholic upbringing. This past year I've finally gotten bored with the question of whether or not I believe in God. At Christmas, it seems to me there is more of a need to define our faith, our belief in something, than at other times of the year. Is that keeping the "Christ in Christmas?" Well, questions of God aside, I KNOW I believe in the power of the King's College Choir singing Ralph Vaughn Williams "Fantasia On Christmas Carols," or any version of "Mary's Lullaby" or the "The Wexford Carol." I believe in that music. I believe in art, dance, film, theatre. I believe in creativity. The price be damned.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and HAPPY 2008 to one and all!!

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

All events will take place at Touchstone Theatre; 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem: 610-867-1689/www.touchstone.org

1/18- Poetry/Improv Night: A Firehouse Friday event.

2/1 – 2/2- Fresh Voices Created and performed by Touchstone Apprentices Touchstone Theatre's annual class

2/4 – 2/6- Lehigh Valley Black African Heritage History Project Auditions at Touchstone Theatre. All ages are welcome and all levels of experience are encouraged to audition for the original play (title T.B.A.) that Touchstone is producing based on the work of the LVBAHHP. Contact Lisa Jordan at 610-867-1689 or lisa@touchstone.org to reserve your audition spot. Auditions will take place on Monday and Tuesday, 2/4 and 2/5, from 6-8pm at Touchstone; call-backs will be on Wednesday, 2/6 from 6-8pm. The play will be performed on May 30 and 31 in Easton, June 6 and 7 in Bethlehem, and June 13 and 14 in Allentown.

2/15 - HipHop Collective: A Firehouse Friday event

2/29 - The No-Shows: A Firehouse Friday event

MUHLENBERG GSA ENDS GENDER NEUTRAL HOUSING CAMPAIGN

In agreement with President Peyton Randy Helm, the Muhlenberg GSA has discontinued its campaign on campus, calling the agreement a victory. It was confirmed that for the 2008-2009 Academic year approximately one third of all campus beds will be available in mixed-gender living environments. Additionally, it was agreed that within a reasonable time frame, the office of residential services will be looking into a policy for housing openly transgender first year students.

GSA Co-President, Adrian Shanker, responded, "While this is not a perfect solution to our request for a completely gender neutral campus this is two large steps in the right direction. We thank President Helm and the Office of Residential Services for being open to new ideas about gender on campus. I look forward to continuing to partner with them in furthering the discussion about gender activism on campus."With this agreement, shared rooms remain single-sex only.

Over 30 Colleges nationwide have Gender Neutral Housing options on campus. Brittney Hoffman, Campus Coordinator at the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition argues that Gender Neutral Housing is necessary. "When campuses create environments where students can achieve their potential without barriers imposed by gender stereotypes. They provide a rich, diverse and inclusive campus where students can feel comfortable expressing their whole selves without fear of discrimination, harassment or shame. an application that allows you to choose a roommate based on true compatibility and not biological sex is a good starting point."

DIGNITY CHAPTER STARTING

Dignity USA (http://dignityusa.org) is forming a chapter in the Lehigh Valley! Dignity's mission is to provide a safe, affirming environment for GLBTQA Catholics to worship together with a gay-affirming priest, to celebrate fellowship and to provide support for one another in their Christian faith while embracing a Catholic spirituality.

Dignity has been blessed over the years with the support of significant leaders in the gay Christian movement, such as Fr. Mychal Judge, who was the first official recorded death at the World Trade Center site on September 11, 2001.

If you are interested in being a part of this new ministry in the Lehigh Valley, please email to: dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com.

VISIT THE LIBRARIES TAKING PART IN THE PFLAG BERKS/READING ALLIANCE DIVERSITY PROJECT:

Boone Area Library - 129 N. Mill Street, Birdsboro, NEW!! **Exeter Community Library -** 4569 Prestwick Drive, Reading, **Wernersville Public Library -** 100 N. Reber Street, Wernersville, **Brandywine Community Library -** 60 Tower Drive, Topton, **Louisa Gonser Community Library(Formerly the Kutztown Public Library)-** 70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown, **Womelsdorf Community Library -** 203 West High Street, Womelsdorf.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa,610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK-see **FACT**
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
CUUPS -- Covenenat of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uuclv_cuups@yahoogroups.com.
Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org
GLOW- at PPL
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org
INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo groups..com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org,<www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehigh valley@ yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800
Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296
19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

JANUARY 2008

PHOTO Project @KI all month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	RAA	1 LV PFLAG LVGMC	2 SPECTRUM HAVEN TEJAS	3 RAA GLOSS	4	5 GLOSS WDIY BEARS
6 WDIY UUCLV GLOSS HMFF MCC Service GLOSS	7 RAA SC RAA	8 LVGMC	9 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN GayMen'sReading	10 RAA GLOSS	11 ILoveLucy GLOSS	12 WDIY GLOSS REN
13 GLOSS HMFF MCC UUCLV WDIY	14 RAA	15 R PFLAG LVGMC	16 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM GayMen'sReading	17 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	18 Touchstone Theatre PHOTO Project @KI MLK	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 GLOSS HMFF UUCLV Interweave WDIY MCC	21 RAA SC	22 RoeVWade LVGMC	23 TEJAS Touchstone Theatre HAVEN GayMen'sReading SPECTRUM	24 RAA GLOSS PRIDE MEETING	25	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 WDIY UUCLV CUUPS HMFF GLOSS	28 GLOSS Game Night RAA	29 LVGMC	30 TEJAS HAVEN GayMen'sReading SPECTRUM	31 RAA GLOSS		

FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Touchstone Theatre	2 WDIY BEARS GLOSS
3 GLOSS MCC HMFF	4 RAA SC Touchstone Theatre	5 RAA LV LVGMC LV PFLAG	6 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	7 Muhlenberg RAA GLOSS	8 GLOSS Freedom to Marry	9 WDIY GLOSS REN Civic Theatre
10 WDIY GLOSS MCC HMFF UUCLV	11 RAA	12 LVGMC R PFLAG	13 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	14 GLOSS RAA	15 Civic Theatre	16 WDIY
17 Interweave UUCLV MCC	18 RAA SC	19 LVGMC	20 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	21 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	22	23 WDIY GLOSS
24 GLOSS UUCLV HMFF MCC Gaydar	25 GLOSS Game Night RAA	26 LVGMC	27 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	28 RAA GLOSS	29	

MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLOSS BEARS WDIY
2	3 RAA SC	4 LV PFLAG LVGMC	5 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	6 GLOSS RAA	7 19th St. Movie	8 WDIY REN GLOSS
9 UUCLV GLOSS HMFF MCC WDIY	10 RAA	11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS	13 RAA GLOSS	14 GLOSS 19th St. Movie	15 GLOSS WDIY
16 GLOSS Interweave MCC WDIY UUCLV	17 RAA SC	18 LVGMC	19 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	20 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	21	22 GLOSS WDIY
23 GLOSS HMFF 30 UUCLV	24 RAA GLOSS Game Night 30 GLORA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	27 GLOSS RAA	28	29 WDIY GLOSS

PFLAG - **LV** Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org
Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.
Rainbow Families - donniearlucas@msn.com
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219
Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration. org
SC Sanctuary Counseling G:BT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org
Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
SANCTUARY COUNSELING-
1ST & 3RD MONDAYS
GLOSS GAME NITE - 4TH MONS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
JAN,MARJUN,SEPT,DEC ONLY
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
GLOSS BOWLING -2ND FRI
LV BEARS - 1ST SAT
GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE -2ND SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS

JAN 1-31 PDN PHOTO PROJ @KI
JAN 6 - MCC @ SILKWERKS
JAN 9 - GAY MEN'S READING GRP
JAN 12 -DIAMONZ/PDN BENEFIT
JAN 15 - READING PFLAG
JAN 16-GAYMENS READING GRP
JAN 17- POTTSVILLE PFLAG
JAN 18 - TOUCHSTONE
JAN 20-MCC MLK SERVICE
JAN 22 - ROE V WADE
JAN 23- GAYMENS READING GRP
JAN 24 - PRIDE ANNUAL MTG
JAN 30-GAYMENS READING GRP
FEB 1-2- TOUCHSTONE
FEB 4-6- TOUCHSTONE
FEB 5 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG
FEB 7-9 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE
FEB 8 -MCC CRTHOUSEACTION
FEB 9 -MCC NFTMD EVENT
FEB 9 - VAGINA MONOLOGUES
FEB 15- TOUCHSTONE
FEB 19 -READING PFLAG
FEB 21 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG
FEB 24 - GAYDAR OSCAR PARTY
FEB 29 - TOUCHSTONE

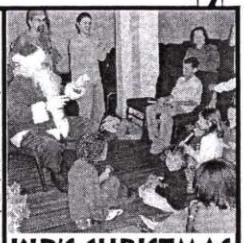
INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE EVENTS
MASTER CHOREOGRAPHERS IN CONCERT

Award-winning faculty artists. Artistic Director, Karen Dearborn.- This major Lehigh Valley dance event features the works of regional, national, and international artists and presents in concert a range of dance styles from classical ballet, to modern, dance to tap and jazz. This year the concert celebrates the work of one of the greatest ballet choreographers of the twentieth century, Antony Tudor with "Continuo" restaged by former American Ballet Theatre principal dancer, Amanda McKerrow.

Other concert highlights include the premiere a new contemporary ballet by internationally noted dancer Zane Booker, who has danced with Baryshnikov's White Oak Project; Charles O. Anderson, artistic director of Philadelphia-based dancetheatreX, who will premiere an athletic tour de force for 11 men; and Sarah Carlson, who recently returned from her Fulbright Fellowship in Benin Africa and restages a work exploring Christian and African spirituality through a ritualized female chorus of eight women. February 7-9 • Empie Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts Thursday and Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 2 pm & 8 pm

VENUS by Suzan-Lori Parks: The Muhlenberg Department of Theatre & Dance presents a rare production of VENUS by the acclaimed playwright Suzan-Lori Parks, Under Beth Schachter's direction, Venus re-visions the history of a young South African woman brought to London in the early 19th century to be displayed as an object of spectacular sexuality and desire. Parks uses the historical events to launch her questioning exploration of exploitation and identity: How much choice does Venus have in the display of her body? How much agency do we each have in constructing our identities? . Parks' award-winning writing is not just funny and not just tragic, but both at once, perhaps her most effective technique for reaching her audiences.
February 21-24 • Baker Theatre, Trexler Pavilion- Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm.TICKETS: 484.664.3333 or www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets Adults & Seniors $15, Youth $8, Campus $5



KID'S CHRISTMAS

This wonderful event was attended by many children and their families, along with The Three Kings, and SANTA CLAUS!!!! With gingerbread house building, stories, tiny tree decorating, cookies, songs, holiday place mat making, cards, reindeer food and lots more.

PDN thanks Carol Stevens for planning this fabuolus event, MCCLV for hosting it, and to all the MCCLV and PDN volunteers for making it happen! And especially The Three Kings, Santa's Elf and Santa!!! See a large photo album of this event at www.padiversity.org.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

THE CHANGE OF LIFE

After taking a few years off to start Gaydar Magazine, I'm returning to the field of social work. I want to take a minute to thank all those who have been supportive of Gaydar through advertising, subscribing or selling it at their place of business. A very special thank you to all the contributors who helped make every issue fun and informative. Thanks to all who have come out and supported Gaydar's fundraisers over the past few years to benefit PDN, LV Pride, FACT, Haven, AIDS Outreach and PA-GALA.

If Gaydar is to continue we will need some investors so we can pay people to do marketing, advertising, interviews etc; all the things I was doing while getting the publication out in the community and offering a voice to the Lehigh Valley gay community that extends well beyond the LV into the tri-state area and to those who subscribe all over the US through our website. The other option would be to sell Gaydar Magazine to an individual or group that would want to purchase the name, publication and website. Please contact me at gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com if interested.

Gaydar issue #11 is due in January. It includes exclusive interviews with Linda deHaan author of the controversial children's book King & King, rocker Chris Cornell, Bear Force 1, graphic artist Donny Miller, author Suzanne Brockmann, super sexy photographer/director Mike Ruiz, gay artist Jim Bloom, Homecoming Queen Julie Brown, Lindsay Lozon's All My Boys, photos from our holiday party at Lee Gribbens, pix from Broadway Cares, Muhlenberg's Zanna Don't, profiles of Amy Winehouse and Annie Lennox, the best & worst of 2007 by guest contributor Miss CoCo Peru, and much more!! If you are interested in ordering this issue or any back issues please contact me at the above email. Thanks to Liz & Trish for letting me use my column this month to make this announcement.

Mark your calendars for the Gaydar Magazine/Brewworks Oscar party to benefit Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Sunday, February 24th at the Allentown Brewworks. Visit prideglv.org or thebrewworks.com for more information.

Speaking of the change of life…how 'bout that Jodie Foster! Who would have thought?! Seriously, good for her. Better for us. It's always good for the gay community when a high profile, well respected personality comes out. Now she can be called The Brave One. Welcome to the family, Jodie! Happy New Year to all!

PLANET Parenthood

donniearlucas@msn.com

by Earl and Donnie Snyder

A GOOD CHRISTMAS

Christmas time is a fun time for children, and busy too. Our son has had quite an active holiday season for a nearly four year old. The season started off with our adoption agency's annual Christmas party for adoptive parents and children and great big cookie exchange. Rather than having the party at the agency itself, one of the agency's adoptive families, a lesbian couple with two adopted children opened up their home for the annual event. Besides them, and our family, there were no other GLBT families that showed up, but quite a turnout nonetheless of families in general. Apparently, we could classify this as a straight-friendly family Christmas party. We loved it.

Next was the children's Christmas party hosted by the Metropolitan Community Church for the PA Diversity Network's Rainbow Families group. All GLBTA families with children were invited. A most fabulous time was had, with loads of activities. From the decorating of gingerbread houses to making reindeer food, everything was appropriate for the young children in attendance. There was a nice selection of yummy cookies to eat as well as doughnuts and delectable banana walnut bread baked by Trish Sullivan.

If the children weren't sugared up before going to the church, they would certainly be there. There was lots of candy for decorating the gingerbread houses. So if you had the urge for a sweet, it was right there, easily accessible as you decorated your house. We had story time with Liz Bradbury, a visit from the three kings, and even from Santa and his elf. MCC sure knows how to party with the kids. We wouldn't have expected less.

Also, the MCC party was a turning point for Lucas this year. We can definitely see a change in his understanding of what Christmas is all about to a child. Rather than being a scary creature, Santa Claus has transformed into a fine old gent to whom he can make his Christmas wishes. This year, he has sat on Santa's lap three times, voluntarily. Up three times from previous years, as those sittings were all apparently forced endless occasions of torture. All of his previous pictures were of Lucas wailing with his mouth wide open. We always had a good view of his molars. Take note, dentists. And that was even with one of us sitting on Santa's lap as well, bad hair day and all. Lovely pictures...not. This year we have the Santa picture of all pictures. After a slight hesitation, as we both held our breath, Lucas climbed onto Santa's lap in the MCCLV sanctuary. When asked what he wanted for Christmas he smiled and quietly told Santa...that he wanted "a good Christmas." Not a toy, nor money nor a Barney DVD. Not even the battery operated kid mobile he seemed to have his eye on all year. He asked for.... " A good Christmas." We nearly fell over. This, from the child that cannot even allow us to have a good dinnertime. Who knows, next year if we coach him enough, maybe he will ask for world peace.

SEE A LARGE PHOTO ALBUM OF THE RAINBOW FAMILIES CHRISTMAS PARTY ATMCC AT THE PDN WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

RAINBOW FAMILIES

READ MORE IN THE RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

IRS AND RENTAL PROPERTY

Dear Denise, We have purchased a home, together and are looking to buy a rental property. Would you mind giving us some tax advice and legal advice that can help us in our situation?
Signed, Home Owners/Business Partners

Dear, Home Owners/Business Partners, First of all, congratulations on your real estate endeavors and thinking "out of the box." It is that time of the year to be thinking about tax implications and opportunities.

For tax purposes, the Internal Revenue Service defines gay and lesbian couples as "single." It is important to find an attorney who understands the community's legal needs. The financial and legal systems were not designed with the community in mind. A couple that purchases a home together and doesn't have it titled correctly can incur devastating tax consequences. Unmarried couples are potentially subject to much higher taxes upon the death of the life partner. However, the trade off is that income taxes are lower throughout a non-married couple's lifetime and then a higher tax is paid at death. Which can be offset by owning a life insurance policy, if you are insurable.

Unmarried business partners have the ability to shift their income to the partner who has the lower marginal tax rate. They may also be able to claim expenses as deductions, which were previously unavailable. If a same sex couple has the entrepreneurial spirit and starts their own business and provides their own employer-paid health insurance, you can avoid having the health care premium taxed as taxable income to the other partner. Another advantage is the ability to shift the mortgage interest and real estate taxes on jointly titled property. You have the ability to choose on either return, who takes the deductions. Seek the advice of a competent tax consultant to determine the greatest advantage. If you own a rental property, unmarried couples can gain the ability to deduct the passive losses on multiple properties and not be constrained by the standard passive activity loss limitation of a married couple.

With your ongoing real estate purchases and business ventures, you are entering complex tax situations that require professional help. Taking the plunge is a huge endeavor, but it may be a worthwhile experience.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd. Please forward your e-mails to denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.com or call 610.439.7000. Please note that this information may not apply to unique financial circumstances.

GLV PRIDE MEETING

Pride GLV will be holding its Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 24 at 7pm at 1101 W. Hamilton Street in Allentown. Elections for 2008 Pride GLV Board of Directors will occur at this meeting. Interested in being on the Board of Directors of Pride? Please notify Shawn Bausher at sbausher@prideglv.org for more information. All paid Pride members have a vote in the election. The January Board Meeting will immediately follow the annual meeting.

MCC PEACE PILGRIMAGE

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley had 20 participants in the 48th annual Nazareth-Bethlehem Peace Pilgrimage on Saturday, December 8. The pilgrimage is 10 miles long and is symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph. MCCLV was happy to join many area organizations in taking part in the event and thanks Stephanie Heller for coordinating the church's participation.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

KI: PROGRESSIVE FAITH COMMUNITY

For the first time, Liz Bradbury's national award winning photo show, 200 Same Sex Couples: Facing Inequality, a show featuring photo's of over 200 Pennsylvania Same Sex Couples, will be displayed in a Jewish setting. The exhibit will be featured at Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown during the month of January. The timing of the show is meant to coincide with Martin Luther King day. The show has been exhibited at the Metropolitan Community Church in the Lehigh Valley and there are a number of couples of faith communities featured in the show.

Keneseth Israel is a member synagogue of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), which has been on record supporting forms of LGBT equality since 1965 when the Women for Reform Judaism called for the decriminalization of homosexuality. The Reform Jewish movement is on record supporting a number of LGBT civil rights issues including the Hate Crimes bill, the Employment Non Discrimination Act, marriage equality, adoption rights, and specific transgender rights. The URJ also allows for same-gender marriage ceremonies and accepts gay and transgender students in its rabbinical schools for ordination. Given the URJ's strengths in supporting full civil and human rights for our community, it is not surprising that KI would host this photo show. All of us in the queer community should make sure they know how important it is that the show is there. If you would like to see the show or check out a service at KI, visit the website at www.kiallentown.org

It is very important for the queer community to use the progressive faith communities when possible; often we are in agreement, especially when it comes to countering the religious right. A number of faith communities are on the record in support of marriage equality, and a number of congregations in the Lehigh Valley are welcoming congregations to queer people. To find information about specific LGBT supportive religious organizations, log on to padiversity.org/religious.htm and there are listings for various supportive local faith organizations.

VAGINA MONOLOGUES AT CIVIC

Women interested in participating in Civic Theatre of Allentown's fifth annual V-Day production of The Vagina Monologues should contact Civic's V-Day Coordinator Chelsea Collier at 610-433-8903 or vday@civictheatre.com by Monday January 7th.

The performance date of The Vagina Monologues is Saturday February 9th at 8:00pm. Rehearsals will be Saturday January 26th from 2:00-5:00pm, Sunday February 3rd from 2:00-5:00pm, and Saturday February 9th from 12:00-5:00pm. (Rehearsal conflicts are discouraged.) All rehearsals and the performance will be at Civic Theatre, 527 N. 19th Street, Allentown.

All ages/types/experience levels are welcome to participate. Scripts are available at the theatre, or by email. All monologues are assigned. Women may request a specific monologue, but casting is discretionary.

Proceeds from the performance will once again be donated to Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, a safe place where victims of abuse and their children can find refuge. Turning Point provides services locally to over 3,000 victims of domestic violence each year. Their mission is to work toward the elimination of domestic violence; increase community awareness of the problem; and empower victims of domestic violence by providing shelter and support services. For more information, or to participate in V-Day, please contact Chelsea Collier at 610-433-8903 or vday@civictheatre.com.

GAYDAR OSCAR PARTY

Gaydar Magazine's 4th Annual Oscar Party to benefit Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley -- Sunday, February 24, 7PM till the last award is handed out! At Allentown Brewworks, 812 Hamilton St., Allentown. 610-433-7777 Please check prideglv.org and thebrewworks.com for more information as the date nears.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury
Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan
Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allenwotn
10 Libraries in Berks County
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Reading Community Theatre - 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading
Allen HS GSA , Reading HS GSA, Gov Miflin HS GSA Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College GSA 48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamonz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
The Woods Campground
Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading
Sanctuary Counseling --515 Old Swede Road, Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle obegins in January. Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:
Mail to:PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

PDN
PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s_____
Address_____
City_____State____zip_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____

- ☐ Senior dues (over 65) $5
- ☐ Individual dues $15
- ☐ Family dues $20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Make checks payable to **PDN.**

Additonal contribution
$50 $100 other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just $15 for an individual membership and $20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

PAY YOUR PDN DUES ON LINE!

JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm
2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown,
AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search **at no cost to you.** Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is $730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. Make Goodsearch your home page!!!

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

By Liz Bradbury

By Patricia Sullivan

2007 - ROSES AND RASPBERRIES

It's the end of the year and time to send out virtual roses for some of the wonderful, important work individuals and community groups have done to support the local GLBT community.

Roses to (in no particular order):

*****Reading Pride, including all the many boardmembers:** For fabulous organization of the first of its kind Reading Pride Festival, and the great community outreach fundraising events that supported it. And for the current efforts in planning next year's festival (they've already sent out booth rental information for 2008!)

*****Steve Libby and Gaydar:** Few people have done as much for the community as Steve Libby. Though Gaydar has technically been a "for profit" gay owned business, Steve has never hesitated to use Gaydar events as fundraisers for many local GLBT not-for-profits and the magazine as a voice for not-for-profit efforts.

*****Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley:** For a successful effort of outreach to more diverse and minority community members.

*****Rev. Beth Goudy and Carol Stevens:** For making their wedding a broad and inspiring community celebration.

*****PPL Corporation:** For granting full domestic partner benefits for management employees (union employees benefits depend on union leadership - see raspberries). Special kudos for the members of GLOW and supportive management who have worked long and hard for these benefits.

*****Sam Smith and his family:** High school student (and his mother) at Nazareth High School who responded to anti-gay harassment by confronting the school system and contacting PA Diversity Network who (along with the ACLU and Equality Advocates) worked with the Smith's to compel the High School's administration to make major changes regarding the implementation of pro-diversity/anti-bullying polices and the formation of a school GSA.

*****Adrian Shanker:** Who continues to create and lead a variety of pro-GLBT community efforts. Just one example is the distribution to Jewish congregations of the pro-GLBT faith text Kulanu, which was also made possible by funding from Eastern PA PFLAG.

*****Muhlenberg College:** For instituting gender neutral housing. Special roses for all the people who worked on the passage of this progressive policy.

*****Wachovia (especially including GLBT support leaders Brian Killeen and Maureen Gilligan.)** For outreach and networking efforts and support of the local GLBT community,

*****Kym Kliensmith and Reading Area Community College:** For arranging to host the PDN Photo Project and presenting GLBT issues and support to the College community.,

*****Marc Freligh and the Pottsville PFLAG Board:** For continuing to supply the Pottsville community with monthly GLBT events and support.

*****State Reps and State Senators:** Who are cosponsors of the PA State Civil Rights Legislation. And the Local Congressmen and women who voted in favor of ENDA.

*****Don and Melinda Kohn:** Who not only lead PFLAG, but together and individually support more GLBT efforts and events in one year than most GLBTA people do in a life time - From essential help creating the PDN web site, to standing in as family members at an important local wedding, to working with Berks County libraries, to providing the Santa for the MCC Kid's Christmas party and everything in between, the Kohn's are always there.

*****Greater Lehigh Valley Pride:** For continuing to produce the community's largest outdoor event and rolling with a major date change with grace and efficiency. GLV Pride and its wonderful board makes a nearly impossible task look easy.

*****Val Schaeffer:** For stepping up to distribute pro-GLBT books in Berks County, especially at Reading Area Community College.

*****Amy Smart and Merrill Lynch:** for outreach and support of the GLBT Community.

*****Lower Macungie Library:** For just saying no to censorship.

And More Roses to: All the groups or individuals that deserve continuing praise for the work they do on recurring events or on-going programs including: **Fabio Urbina and GLOSS** continuing to produce events every week. **LV Gay Men's Chorus** still going strong. **GLORA. Heather Almquist and Sanctuary Counseling** for leading Berks County GLBT weekly support groups. **Haven** and **Spectrum** and all the **GSAs** supporting GLBT youth. **Rainbow Families. Renaissance** - hosting events for the trans community every month, all the **VGP Columnists, Theatre Outlet** and **Civic Theater. 19th St.Theater** bringing us cutting edge movies all year, **FACT-Fighting AIDS Continuously Together,** still fighting after 20+ years.. **Tejas and DJ Landis** - for weekly support meeting for community women. **The PFLAGs of Allentown, Monroe, Reading & Pottsville.** And everyone else working daily for the LV GLBTA community. If we skipped you, we are sincerely sorry.

And Raspberries to:

*****That guy with the megaphone at the Pride Festival.**

*****PA Superior Court** - for rescinding the Hate Crimes Law protections.

*****Lehigh Valley Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, and Air Products** - for continuing to deny same-sex couples benefits. A company that does not give same-sex couples benefits does not support its GLBT employes.

*****The City of Bethlehem** - for still not having an anti-discrimination ordinance.

*****WDIY, Godfrey Daniels, and the Old Allentown Preservation Association** - for refusing to sign on to the VGP non-discrimination statement on the back of this paper.

*****Representatives of the Union at PPL** that have refused to accept Domestic Partner Benefits for PPL union workers.

PDN AWARDS EVENT

PA Diversity Network is planning a GLBT Community Awards Banquet for June, 2008. This will be an annual gala dinner event to honor GLBTA people of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County, who have contributed and supported the local GLBT community. The date of this event is not yet set, so if your organization is planning an event in June, please contact PDN at info@padiversity.org or 610-432-5449 so the events won't conflict.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

POP QUIZ 12

Match the Famous Mom or Dad With the Famous Kid:

Moms & Dads:	Kids
1. Tippi Hedren	A. Kate Hudson
2. Blythe Danner	B. Angelina Jolie
3. Vanessa Redgrave	C. Mariska Hargitay
4. Ingrid Bergman	D. Carrie Fisher
5. Debbie Reynolds	E. Natasha Richardson
6. Jayne Mansfield	F. Ben Stiller
7. Goldie Hawn	G. Gwyneth Paltrow
8. Janet Leigh	H. Isabella Rosellini
9. Judy Garland	I. Laura Dern
10. Connie Stevens	J. Jamie Lee Curtis
11. Diane Ladd	K. James McArthur
12. Helen Hayes	L. Liza Minnelli
13. Jon Voight	M. Joely Fisher
14. Anne Meara	N. Melanie Griffith

1.N 2.G 3.E 4.H 5.D 6.C 7.A 8.J 9.L 10.M 11.I 12.K 13.B 14.F

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

King and King" by Linda de Hann and Stern Nijland

Like many fairy tails of yore, this one deals with the current ruling monarch trying to marry off the next generation in order to pass along the thrown. In "King and King," the Queen wants her son the Prince to get married, whether he wants to or not. "Why, by the time I was your age, I'd been married twice already," she exclaims at him in exasperation.

She invites a series of princesses with a variety of diverse talents (opera singing, juggling etc.) to meet her son and commands him to pick one. Instead, he chooses the brother of one of the princesses and it's love at first sight. They marry and "everyone lives happily ever after." The post wedding kiss, is covered by a red heart.

The book is 32 pages, with very few words per page. It's illustrated in a cut-out collage style with bright colors and funny line drawings. According to editorial notes, its written at a 4 to 8-year-old reading level.

This story presents a same-sex attraction and union in a sweet and child-like way. Its story line is direct and playful. And the out come is presented in a matter-of-fact way. Featuring a same-sex relationship is one reason that anti-GLBT people find this book threatening, but it's more complicated than that. In this plot, the mother wants the son to conform to social norms and tradition. The son rebels and chooses love over the pressure of his family. And fairly quickly, the mother (and the rest of the Kingdom) comes around, and they live happily ever after. The fact that the relationship is accepted and people are happy about it is the real threat that far right, narrow-minded people find in this book.

This is the perfect book for supportive, tolerant families to use to be sure their young children know from the start that they will be accepted if they are GLBT. All a parent has to do is read the book to their kid and then say at the end, "You know, if I were the Queen in this story I'd be happy with any person you wanted to marry, as long as she or he was nice and you loved each other."

We all know stories about people who wait years to tell their families they are GLBT, only to find out in the end that their family already knew and was just waiting for the "confession" to offer their support. Why didn't the family just tell the kid they would support them, right from the beginning? Usually because they didn't know how. This is the perfect story to open a family discussion that ends with both -- "In our family we respect all different kinds of families," and "I want you to know I'll always love and support you, no matter what". That's why "King & King" should be in every library.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin,ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Haskalah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Contact VGP to list your organization

GAY MEN'S READING GROUP

-- Hosted by Grace Episcopal Church in Allentown, four Wednesdays of January (not Jan. 2), with dinner. The Velvet Rage by gay psychologist Alan Downs. The author writes, "The most important issue in a gay man's life is not 'coming out,' but coming to terms with the invalidating past where we learned that we are shameful..." The publishers notes add, *Offering profoundly helpful strategies to stop the insidious cycle of avoidance and self-defeating behavior, Velvet Rage is an empowering book you'll wish you read long ago.* To join, for information: Patrick Malloy / malloy@rcn.com/610.435.0782. NOTE: Author Alan Downs, has said he will take part in the discussion by phone from Palm Springs on the 16th, or even manage to be there if he can work out a consulting gig in the area that day.

QUOTE #1

"Thank you for keeping King and King on your library shelves. We need to normalize the lives of LGBT people and if parents don't have the good sense to do that, I'm glad that at least our libraries do." **-- Jim Fillman, from an email to Lower Macungie Library**

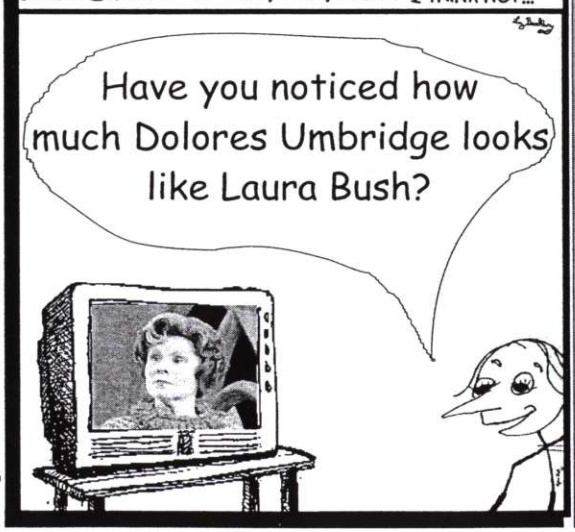
QUOTE #2

"So, I just wanted to say thanks to everyone who has anything at all to do with the King and King book staying on the shelves. Now I have another reason to brag about my local library." **-- Gail Uhl, from an email to Lower Macungie Library**

QUOTE #3

"Miss Foster, 44, a double Oscar winner, praised her film producer partner Cydney Bernard "who sticks with me through all the rotten and the bliss".- **from a blog by DAVID GARDNER titled " Jodie Foster comes out with emotional tribute to her girlfriend of 14 years"**

Distelfink ©12/07 by Ruby Zebu 'Coincidence? I think not...'



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